GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:02.02.2017
Maintenance of Reservoirs
Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reservoirs which have dried up in the country including Bundelkhand region along with the measures being taken by the Government for their conservation;

(b) the steps taken by the Government for the maintenance of the reservoirs and to increase water harvesting in the country; and

(c) the action plan chalked out and implemented by the Government to reduce the rate of evaporation during summer in the reservoirs and to construct underground reservoir in the country including Bundelkhand region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 20 to be answered on 2.2.2017 on "Maintenance of Reservoirs" raised by Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel:

(a) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 91 reservoirs of the country including Bundelkhand on weekly basis and issues Storage Bulletin on every Thursday. As per the Storage Bulletin dated 25.1.2017, Sholayar and Aliyar reservoirs of Tamil Nadu have zero live storage.

(b) & (c) Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes. Under the scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies, MoWR, RD &GR gives Central Assistance (CA) to States/UTs. The scheme has multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement in agriculture/horticulture productivity etc.

Under the scheme of domestic support, a total of 3341 water bodies were taken up for restoration in 12 states including 78 from Bundelkhand region of MP and 28 from Bundelkhand region of UP. A total central grant amounting to Rs. 917.26 crore was released to the states for completion of works of water bodies taken up during XI Plan and the works on 2801 water bodies have been completed and an irrigation potential of 1.984 lakh ha has been restored up to 31.03.2016.

Further during XII Plan, 1354 additional water bodies including 31 from Bundelkhand region of MP and 20 from Bundelkhand region of UP have been included under this scheme. So far, an amount of Rs. 264.669 crore has been released towards these schemes and an irrigation potential of 0.285 lakh ha has been restored up to 31.03.2016. Works in 464 of water bodies have been completed.

Following measures have been taken by the Government for water harvesting and artificial recharge of water:
â€¢ The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption.

â€¢ Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
â€¢ Special focus is given through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation

and water harvesting structures to augment ground water. 674403 works in respect of water conservation and water harvesting have been completed and 753383 works are ongoing with an expenditure of Rs. 729182.70 lakhs under the MGNREGA. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water.

â€¢ The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10 % of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds are provided to the States.

â€¢ Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The major activities taken up under the WDC-PMKSY, inter-alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, and pasture development etc.

â€¢ MoWR, RD & GR has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement.

â€¢ CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water; more than 17 lakh children participated in a nation-wide painting competition in the last year to promote conservation of water.

CWC has published a technical report on "Evaporation Control in Reservoirs" in 2006 which has been circulated to all State Governments & other dam owning organization for their reference and taking appropriate action regarding the evaporation control in reservoirs.

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